

strategic leveraging of IT solutions, the warfighter can now reach out and touch the shore-based infrastructure anytime any day. In fact, we have Craig to thank for many new and groundbreaking developments within the United States Navy.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Navy, Craig has received the Chief Information Officer eBusiness Government Award, the Civilian Meritorious Achievement Medal, the National Partnership for Reinventing Government Vice President Hammer Award, the CNO's VADM Stanley Arthur Logistics Excellence Award, and the American Society of Naval Engineers Clifford G. Geiger Award recognizing his 25 years of significant career contributions to logistics readiness of the Naval services.

Craig managed many large programs throughout his impressive career, but his true passion was for leading those who worked for him. He has touched many programs and many people, and I know he will be missed by them all. I thank Craig for his contributions to this country and congratulations on his retirement. We know that his family and his children Lauren and Connor are proud of his accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA ZIARKO,
MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE'S
NEW VICE PRESIDENT

HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Ziarko who has been selected as the Michigan Municipal League's 2021–2022 Vice President.

Barbara has been a Sterling Heights resident for forty-two years and has given much of her time and talent to the community, including serving as a member of the Sterling Heights City Council for twenty years. She was a Macomb Foundation Athena Award nominee, which helps to demonstrate her exemplary leadership and community service. Throughout the years, Barbara has been deeply involved with numerous community organizations, including serving as co-coordinator for the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team at St. Blase Catholic Community, as a committee member of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event in Sterling Heights for five years, as a member of the Regina High School Board of Directors for seven years, and as a member of the American Polish Century Club Ladies Auxiliary.

In her new role with the Michigan Municipal League, Barbara has pledged to work on the organization's ongoing community wealth building and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. I have no doubt that the remarkable leadership she has displayed in Sterling Heights will benefit the entire State of Michigan.

I am truly proud to have the honor of recognizing Barbara Ziarko as she takes on this important role for the Michigan Municipal League in 2021–22. I invite my colleagues to join me in offering her, and the Michigan Municipal League, very best wishes for a successful year ahead.

REMEMBERING MICHELLE LYN
PRESENT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a close friend who passed away late last year following a courageous battle against cancer.

Michelle Lyn Present was a young woman blessed with many talents and virtues. She possessed an abounding faith, which enabled her to persevere through a very long and difficult struggle until her passing on December 3, 2020. Not only did she not allow darkness to shadow her days, Michelle was a beacon of light that never flickered but always shone brightly; indeed, hers was a light that helped to guide others in overcoming challenges of their own.

I came to know Michelle through her parents, Marti and Kenny Cox. Kenny was a former member of the District of Columbia Fire Department and, for many years, the Vice President of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 26. Michelle's parents instilled in her their value of service to others and their love of community and country.

Among her many talents, Michelle was a very gifted singer. She was always willing to share her beautiful voice, whether in her church or at fire-service events. For many years, she performed at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony. At the request of the late Hal Bruno, former Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, she would perform the song 'Precious Memories.' The sound of her voice resonated throughout the gathered assembly of family members and fire-service officials. It was a voice that I always looked forward to hearing each year at the very moving ceremony.

On behalf of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus leadership, I extend my condolences to Michelle's husband Jack and their daughter Taylor, to her parents Kenny and Marti, to her brother Ken Jr., and to her entire family. In remembrance of a dear friend who was called home too early, I would like to share the words from 'Precious Memories' with my fellow Members of the House. I hope you will find them as uplifting as I did whenever Michelle sang them to the families of fallen firefighters and all of us who were there to support them each year.

Precious memories, unseen angels,
Sent from somewhere to my soul
How they linger, ever near me,
And the sacred scenes unfold

Precious memories, how they linger,
How they ever flood my soul
In the stillness of the midnight,
Precious, sacred scenes unfold
Precious father, loving mother,
Fly across the lonely years
And old home scenes of my childhood,
In fond memory appear

In the stillness of the midnight,
Echoes from the past I hear
Old-time singing, gladness bringing,
From that lovely land somewhere

I remember mother praying,
Father, too, on bended knee
Sun is sinking, shadows falling,
But their prayers still follow me
As I travel on life's pathway,

Know not what the years may hold
As I ponder, hope grows fonder,
Precious memories flood my soul

May the precious memories of Michelle Lyn Present be a comfort and a blessing to all those who knew her and to all those to whom she brought her many gifts in life.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAVERSE CITY
ELKS LODGE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Traverse City Elks Lodge. Through their steadfast devotion and service to their community, Lodge No. 323 has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Since 1896, the Traverse City Elks Lodge has not only worked to provide a supportive environment for their members, but has also continuously assisted others in their community through service and charity. Since their establishment, TCEL has worked to follow and uphold their four cardinal virtues: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity.

As a result, their organization has helped many Michiganders and families through the multiple charities and scholarships they work with. This notably includes the Elks National Foundation which provides \$3.64 million in college scholarships each year. In addition, their work with the Michigan Elks Major Project supports special needs children that do not receive assistance from other agencies or groups. Their help has improved the lives of countless Americans and their families, and their dedication to the well-being of our communities cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Traverse City Elks Lodge for decades of success and service to Northern Michigan. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING ROCKFORD'S
"BUILDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES"
PROJECT FOR RECEIVING
THE 2020 GOVERNOR'S HOME-
TOWN PROJECT AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rockford's "Building New Opportunities" project for bringing together high school students and families in need to create affordable housing. The organization received the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for the incredible work they have done in the community.

Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity and the Rockford Public School District came together to have construction trades students at Rockford's Guilford High School build a house from the ground up as part of their academic year

curriculum. 32 high school students constructed a multi-level, four-bedroom home, which Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity sold to a local family in need of safe and affordable housing. In doing so the students mastered the skills needed for their post-graduation trades careers.

It is because of community projects like Building New Opportunities that make me proud to represent Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor Rockford's "Building New Opportunities" for being awarded the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for their efforts in the community.

IN HONOR OF WILLIE JAMES
"BILL" MCNAIR

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Willie James "Bill" McNair, Sr. who passed away after a long and fruitful life at 102 years of age on September 26, 2021, in Port Saint Joe Florida.

Mr. McNair served honorably in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a member of VFW Post 10069. On his return from service, he served for 30 years as a mail carrier for the St. Joe Paper Company. As a licensed chauffeur, Mr. McNair also drove top executives to and from the airport before retiring in 1981.

Willie James McNair Sr. celebrated his 100th birthday in July 2019 with more than 200 family members and friends, including the last of Mr. McNair's surviving siblings, Mildred 98 and Mercedes 96 years old at that time. All three siblings share the same birthday—July 16th, born two years apart.

Mr. McNair was presented with a commemoration for his birthday signifying his service on the Trustee Board of Zion Fair Missionary Baptist Church and another honoring his service to the community.

Madam Speaker, again, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the long life of Willie James "Bill" McNair, Sr.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF
ACADEMY HILL SCHOOL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Academy Hill School on celebrating their 35th anniversary. This milestone achievement deserves the highest praise for the hard work and dedication of the school's faculty and staff, as well as those students whose remarkable commitment to learning has played a pivotal role in the school's success.

Although established in 1986, the Academy Hill School began operating in 1979, offering enrichment classes to gifted students throughout the Greater Springfield community. Two years after opening their full-time day school

in 1986, the Academy Hill Center for Gifted Children was incorporated as a non-profit organization. Over the next three decades, Academy Hill would grow and expand their campus, relocating to their current location on Liberty Street in Springfield, and nearly doubling their total enrollment in their K-8 program. This past year has reminded us of the critical role our schools play in our children's lives, with millions of educators across the country taking on the tremendous responsibility of providing our students equitable educational opportunities in a safe and healthy environment. Therefore, I cannot think of a more appropriate occasion to celebrate all that the Academy Hill School has accomplished over the past 35 years.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again congratulate the Academy Hill School on celebrating their 35th anniversary, and thank them for continuing to inspire our students. Academy Hill is a cherished member of Massachusetts' First District, and I wish them many more years of success and prosperity.

HONORING ELBA GONZALEZ-
MARES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elba Gonzalez-Mares in celebration of her 15th anniversary at Community Health Initiative (CHI) in Napa County.

Born in Puebla, Mexico, Ms. Gonzalez-Mares moved to California when she was just a year old, and now lives in Napa, California. She attended the University of California, Davis where she received her bachelor's degree in international relations in 2005. After finding her passion for helping the most vulnerable in her community, Ms. Gonzalez-Mares began working as a health access assistant at Community Health Initiative, a non-profit organization dedicated to enrolling families in affordable health insurance plans. She then became the coordinator and manager for the organization before working her way up to becoming the executive director. She has expanded CHI from serving only the Napa community to serving several counties throughout California. As a result of her commitment to aiding underprivileged communities, Ms. Gonzalez-Mares has helped thousands of individuals and families gain access to quality health care coverage.

In addition to serving in her various roles at CHI, Ms. Gonzalez-Mares has held numerous positions dedicated to helping underserved communities. She became the board chair of California Coverage and Health Initiatives (CCHI), a statewide association that helps families navigate through affordable healthcare services. Ms. Gonzalez-Mares became commissioner for First 5 Napa County, a nonprofit that provides support services for early childhood development. She was also elected as the president of the Napa Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees. Ms. Gonzalez-Mares is a member of the Community Leaders Coalition, an organization that advocates for vulnerable populations within the Napa County community. Additionally, Ms.

Gonzalez-Mares has assisted in creating a model for organizations similar to CHI to help individuals enroll in health care coverage and access health care services.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Ms. Gonzalez-Mares has selflessly dedicated her career to helping Napa's most vulnerable communities. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, on October 20, 2021, I was not present for the vote on H.R. 3635, the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act of 2021. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted in favor of the legislation.

CONGRATULATING MOUNT
CARROLL'S ARBOR DAY
PALOOZA FOR RECEIVING THE
2020 GOVERNOR'S HOMETOWN
PROJECT AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mount Carroll's "Arbor Day Palooza" for its effort to replace trees that were lost to bugs, disease and storms. The organization received the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for the incredible work it has done for the community.

The idea for "Arbor Day Palooza" was born from a desire to retain the character of the town, as it has been recognized as a Tree City for over 26 years. The city created a Tree Replacement Fund and the community bought in with many volunteers and donors coming forward to assist. In total, the project received over \$13,000 in donations used to plant 52 new trees on city property, hold an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony in the new Stone House Memorial Park and host a tour of the Stone House site.

It is because of events like "Arbor Day Palooza" and their organizers that make me proud to represent Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor "Arbor Day Palooza" for being awarded the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for their efforts in the community.

RECOGNIZING THE DELAWARE
RIVER BASIN COMMISSION FOR
THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Delaware River Basin Commission. Founded in 1961, this collaborative partnership between the federal government and the four states which share the